Table 1. The 38 species of macro-moth taken for the years 1989–91 in chronological order. The earliest date is given for each species in each year. A dash indicates that the moth was not recorded during the period 1 January to 31 March.

Species	1989	1990	1991
Peridroma saucia (Hübn.)	1.i	—	—
Operophtera brumata (L.)	1.i	11.i	—
Erannis defoliaria (Cl.)	—	9.i	—
Conistra ligula (Esp.)	10.i	10.i	15.i
Agrotis ipsilon (Hufn.)	10.i	24.ii	—
Phlogophora meticulosa (L.)	29.iii	11.i	13.iii
Conistra vaccinii (L.)	26.iii	16.i	27.ii
Orthosia stabilis (D. & S.)	15.ii	21.ii	11.iii
Biston strataria (Hufn.)	21.ii	23.ii	13.iii
Xylocampa areola (Esp.)	22.ii	21.ii	12.iii
Orthosia gothica (L.)	16.iii	21.ii	12.iii
Selenia dentaria (F.)	16.iii	25.ii	1.iv
Apocheima pilosaria (D. & S.)	—	—	26.ii
Alsophila aescularia (D. & S.)	31.iii	5.iii	7.iii
Apocheima hispidaria (D. & S.)	—	—	6.iii
Agriopis leucophaeria (D. & S.)	—	—	6.iii
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata (Haw.)	29.iii	6.iii	31.iii
Theria primaria (Haw.)	7.iii	—	11.iii
Agriopis marginaria (F.)	—	8.iii	14.iii
Mythimna loreyi (Dup.)	—	9.iii	—
Eupsilia transversa (Hufn.)	—	—	10.iii
Orthosia cruda (D. & S.)	16.iii	28.iii	13.iii
Conistra rubiginea (D. & S.)	—	—	17.iii
Eupithecia abbreviata (Steph.)	—	17.iii	13.iv
Macroglossum stellatarum (L.)	—	22.iii	—
Orthosia incerta (Hufn.)	28.iii	28.iii	27.iii
Orthosia munda (D. & S.)	–	—	28.iii
Colostygia multistrigaria (Haw.)	28.iii	—	1.iv
Pachycnemia hippocastanaria (Hübn.)	—	28.iii	—
Anticlea badiata (D. & S.)	29.iii	31.iii	13.iv
Autographa gamma (L.)	29.iii	—	—
Agrotis segetum (D. & S.)	29.iii	—	—
Scoliopteryx libatrix (L.)	—	30.iii	—
Dasypolia templi (Thunb.)	—	—	30.iii
Anticlea derivata (D. & S.)	30.iii	—	—
Lithophane socia (Hufn.)	—	30.iii	—
Pheosia gnoma (F.)	—	31.iii	—
Opisthograptis luteolata (L.)	—	31.iii	—
No. of species for the 3 months	21	25	24

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A relict old forest beetle fauna from Powis Castle Park, Montgomeryshire.—A morning spent in the old deer park of Powis Castle (SJ216064), 9.vi.1990, revealed a rich variety of beetles and other insects within dead and decaying timber. Beetles of particular note are *Melasis buprestoides* (L.) which appears to be new to Wales (Mendel, 1988), and *Dorcatoma chrysomelina* Sturm which appears to be the second record for Wales (the first reported in Alexander, 1988). Pieces of *Melasis* were found

under bark on an ancient oak, while dead specimens of the *Dorcatoma* were found amongst red-rot within a lying dead oak trunk.

Other beetles found include: *Ctesias serra* (F.), larvae plentiful under loose bark on oak trunks; *Xestobium rufovillosum* (Deg.), elytra under oak bark; *Thymalus limbatus* (F.), under oak bark; *Cryptolestes ferrugineus* (Steph.), under oak bark; *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.), larvae under bark on recently split fallen oak boughs; *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.), adult in dead hawthorn timber; *Bitoma crenata* (F.), under bark on oak logs—a rare species in Wales; *Triplax aenea* (Schall.), frequent on a soft fungus growing on a lying beech trunk; *Leiopus nebulosus* (L.), swept from bracken beneath oaks; *Scolytus intricatus* (Ratz.), in oak bark.

Nine of these species are listed in Harding & Rose (1986) as associated with sites where there has been long continuity of old trees and associated deadwood habitats. The park includes many ancient oaks and a scatter of hawthorns within a matrix of bracken-invaded acidic grassland.

My thanks to Roger Key and the Nature Conservancy Council for arranging access to this private estate.—Keith N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

References

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***Epuraea distincta* (Grimmer) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in North Somerset.**—Alexander (1991) reported this species from Devon and Cornwall in 1989, evidently new to south-west England. On 20.iv.1990 I took two specimens from a fungus, probably *Daedaleopsis confragosa* (Bolt. ex Fr.) Schroet., in woodland at the Street Heath reserve of the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation (ST 4639), this being the first record for Somerset. On 6.v.1991 I took another at Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve (ST 4240) and on 8.v.1991 a further singleton from Catcott Heath STNC reserve (ST 4040), by tapping hard fungi growing on fallen branches in mature birch woodland. Associated on all three occasions were numerous *Mycetophagus multipunctatus* F. (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae), which may prove to be an indicator species. As *Epuraea distincta* has now been found quite readily at these sites, and just from the one or two fungi that were examined on each visit, I have little doubt that this species is now firmly established and perhaps even abundant in the spring in birch woods on the Somerset peat moors.

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Reference

Alexander, K. N. A. 1991. *Epuraea distincta* (Grimmer) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in Devon. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **4**: 83.